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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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To: Indiana Fair Boards, Exhibition Managers, Cooperative Extension Educators

From: Bret D. Marsh, D.V.M., Indiana State Veterinarian

Re: Biosecurity guidelines for animal exhibitions

Date: May 21, 2001

Fairs are an important part of summer in Indiana. The current foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) situation in Europe has led to questions about animals at fairs and other exhibition events this summer. Currently, with no known cases of FMD in the United States, the cancellation of fairs and other animal exhibitions is not warranted. In fact, such events provide the opportunity for you and others in the animal agriculture industry to educate the nonfarm public.

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health is a longtime supporter of local and state animal events. We dedicate countless employee hours to educating exhibitors, producers and veterinarians; verifying the validity of inspection certificates; and inspecting show animals at all county fairs, State Fair and many open shows throughout the year as our commitment to promoting a healthy livestock industry in Indiana. We appreciate the opportunities we've had to partner with Extension at state and local levels to promote awareness of biosecurity and animal health in campaigns such as Don't Track It Back!, pseudorabies eradication and ringworm prevention.

The Board of Animal Health intends to continue that support role by offering these guidelines to allow exhibitions to continue in Indiana, while protecting against disease.

Regulations: Be very strict about animal movement regulations. Remember: Animals brought into fairs need to meet all animal health regulations. Do not allow any animal to be unloaded until you verify paperwork and documentation are valid and in order, and a veterinarian, BOAH staff member, or Fair official has inspected the animal.

Public Access: Restricting the public's access to animals is virtually impossible. Remember: Showing livestock and companion animals at fairs has always increased the risks for disease transmission. This is not new to 2001. Nor is the issue of biosecurity unique to FMD or foreign animal diseases.

Post signs (available through Purdue Extension) on all animal facilities requesting those who have traveled internationally within 5 days to avoid the livestock barns. Be available to answer

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questions about the policy and help fair guests to understand the need. Also, post signs reminding visitors to wash their hands after visiting the barns. Make wash stations or hand sanitizer easily accessible. The risk of a human contracting *E.coli* or salmonella is much more likely than FMD being passed among animals. (Refer to attached information from Centers for Disease Control.)

Livestock Owners: Owners can mitigate their risks with some simple measures:

- For meat animals, the best policy is to show only those that will be sent to slaughter after the fair.
- Animals that return home after the fair must be isolated from other animals, including pets, and observed for 30 days.
- Animals from different sites should not be transported to and from the event in a common vehicle. Trucks and trailers must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Clothing (including hats) and shoes must be changed when returning home during/ after a show to do chores.
- Feed, tools, clippers, buckets, water tanks and other equipment must not be shared among exhibitors, unless the items have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. These items (including the showbox) also need to be cleaned and disinfected before returning home.
- Unused hay, feed and bedding remaining after the event needs to be discarded at the show site, not taken home.
- Refer to the Exhibition Biosecurity Checklist for more specific steps that can be taken.

Education: Use your event as an opportunity to educate the public. Explain what biosecurity is and why it is necessary all the time, not just now. Tell consumers that biosecurity not only protects the farmer, but protects the public by assuring animals are healthy. Healthy animals mean safe food for people.

For more information: Contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health by calling 877/747-3038; emailing: animalhealth@boah.state.in.us; or logging on to www.state.in.us/boah.